
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

FISHERY UPDATE



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304 Lake Street, Room 103
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Time: 3:15 p.m.

HOONAH SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE #3

Sitka . . . Today the department conducted an aerial survey of the Hoonah Sound area.

On today's survey, several small herring schools were seen around the fishing grounds. Schools were observed in shallow waters adjacent to the shore north of the Emmons Island sand spit, in one of the coves on northwest Vixen Island, and several schools were seen along the Chichagof Island shoreline, west of the Vixen Islands. Several pounds contained herring, although, at the time of the survey no active fishing was taking place. No herring spawn was seen. Due to moderate winds and chop, observations of herring predators were somewhat obstructed. Two whales were seen offshore south of Moser Island and sea lions appeared to be widely disbursed with the greatest concentrations between Emmons and Vixen Islands.

Fishermen who have not yet harvested their kelp are advised to do so in the near future and mobilize to the grounds. Although there was no spawn observed today, the presence of herring in shallow waters near traditional spawning areas indicates spawning could begin soon. The next aerial survey of this area will be planned for tomorrow, Wednesday, April 18. Once spawning begins, department managers will travel to the grounds aboard the state vessel *Kittiwake III* for the duration of the fishery and will be monitoring VHF channels 16 and/or 10.

Updates will be posted on the ADF&G web site listed below.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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